

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please replace Figure 2 with the following Replacement Sheet attached hereto.
No new matter is believed entered.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet for Figure 2

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. By the present amendment, claims 1-13 are cancelled, claim 14 is amended, and claims 20-30 are newly added. The specification is amended, and Figure 2 is also amended.

Applicant would especially like to thank the Examiner for the time spent in telephone interviews on January 23-24, 2008. During the interviews the Applicant's representative asked for clarification on the objections and rejections in the previous Office action, and also discussed proposed claim amendments. Specifically, the Applicant's representative proposed the claim amendments presented herein, and the Examiner generally agreed upon the amendments to be made to overcome the objections and art of record. The Examiner posed a question regarding the claim language "characterized in that the first and second handle sections (15, 16) are permanently joined together so as to form a leak-inhibiting joint therebetween." It is respectfully submitted that such language finds support in the application as originally filed on at least page 4, lines 12-15. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is hereby requested.

Regarding the objections of point 8 of the present Office action, the specification has been amended such that the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 7 is now in its original condition (e.g., the condition prior to the previous Amendment "D"), and to make it consistent with the other parts of the specification and with presently amended Figure 2. Specifically, the reference number relating to the "gas wire or line 50" has been removed. Similarly, the "gas wire or line 50" has been removed from Figure 2. It is appreciated that no new matter has been added.

Moreover, with respect to the various drawing objections of point 6 of the present Office action, it is respectfully submitted that such objections are now moot in view of the present claim amendments. Additionally, with respect to the various drawing objections of point 7 of the present Office action, it is respectfully submitted that Figure

2 shows the appropriate structure for connecting the lever (12) to the handle section (16) by way of support (20) and pin (23). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the specification and drawings are now in condition for allowance, and it is requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Regarding points 9-10 of the present Office action, it is respectfully submitted that such objections are now moot in view of the present claim amendments that cancel claims 1-13. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Regarding points 11-13 of the present Office action, it is respectfully submitted that such objections are now moot in view of the present claim amendments that cancel claims 1-13. Withdrawal of the objections is respectfully requested.

Regarding amended independent claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that the claim is fully supported in the specification as filed, and that no new matter is entered. Specifically, independent claim 14 is supported at least on page 3, lines 8-28 of the specification, and is further supported by the more detailed descriptions of the various embodiments on pages 4-6. Further still, as claim 14 is a *Markush*-style claim, the aforementioned sections of the specification provide sufficient support for each member of the *Markush* group, as required by MPEP 608.01(p). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 14 is in condition for allowance. Further, because claims 15-18 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 14, it is respectfully submitted that claims 15-18 are also in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

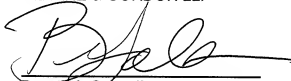
Similarly, regarding new independent claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that the claim is fully supported in the specification as filed, and that no new matter is entered. Specifically, independent claim 20 is also supported at least on page 3, lines 8-28 of the specification, and is further supported by the more detailed descriptions of the various embodiments on pages 4-6. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 20 is in condition for allowance. Further, because claims 21-30 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 20, it is respectfully submitted that claims 21-30 are also in condition for allowance. Notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Thus, the instant invention provides a tool (10) having a handle (11) that includes a pivotable throttle lever (12), safety button (13), and/or line wheel (30) for controlling the power of the tool (10). The handle (11) is made of first and second handle sections (15, 16) that are permanently joined together to form a fuel tank. The pivotable elements are directly pivotally coupled to only the second handle section (16), and indirectly coupled to the first handle section (15), so that the functions of the pivotable elements are separate from the alignment of the first handle section (15) relative to the second handle section (16). As such, the relative alignment between the two handle sections (15, 16) does not have to be exact.

None of the prior art of record discloses, teaches, or suggests such structure. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is hereby requested.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. ABE1-38148.

Respectfully submitted,
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